

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on February 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cardella, Craft, Draper, Kraemer,
and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Thomas

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Craft led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the following inspiration:

The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen.

Frank Lloyd Wright

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love.

Bryant H. McGill

Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.

Oscar Wilde

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of February 9, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Craft stated that the minutes of January 12, 2010 should be amended as follows: on page 4, under Orals/Announcements, fourth paragraph, the word taking should be changed to teaching.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Draper seconded, to approve the minutes, as amended, of the Commission on Aging meeting of January 12, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Former Commissioner Griffith

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer stated that Commissioner Craft was reappointed to the Commission on Aging by the City Council, but due to an insufficient number of qualified applicants, there was still a vacancy on the Commission. She reported that the City Council would meet on February 23 to fill vacancies for both the Commission on Aging and other commissions.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that City Council was working with their Federal consultants to itemize and prioritize the requirements needed to request Federal grants.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the pond at Wilson Park, which has been undergoing reconstruction, would be ready to reopen in June and a new pocket park was under construction at Lomita Boulevard and Anza Avenue.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that at the General Election on June 8, there would be a charter amendment on the ballot.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the June 8 election would include the election of three council people, mayor, treasurer and city clerk.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the proposed increase in the City sanitation fees went back for further discussion, and was therefore not yet in place.

Commissioner Cardella stated that Merla Wilson would put in her application to reapply for commissioner.

B. Housing

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Daily Breeze had printed a letter from the architect of the proposed senior housing condominiums near the financial center. She stated that the architect had clarified his involvement in the project.

C. Health

Chairperson Cardella stated that there was a wealth of health information on the internet.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino commended Torrance Memorial Medical Center for their very informative free Women's Heart Health Conference on February 6.

Vickie Hershberger of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center stated that there had been 2,500 attendees at the Heart Health Conference and that the staff had conducted 800 screenings for body fat composition, glucose and blood pressure.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Torrance Police were setting up a Return Home Registry; which would be a database of photos and descriptions to aid the police in returning home those persons who had wandered and were unable to get home on their own.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino commended Torrance Memorial Medical Center for their free bus service to the hospital and their ride service to doctor's appointments.

Commissioner Kraemer reported on a letter sent to the editor of the Daily Breeze and to the City Council about inconsistencies in the eligible age for senior rates for the bus, the DMV and the Torrance Taxi program.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the age for the senior rate for the bus and the Torrance Taxi Program was now 65, the bus rate had been 62, but had been raised to 65 last year.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that if the City Council or the mayor had received a letter regarding this matter, they would forward the information to Transit, who would respond to the inquiry.

E. Cable

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino suggested that since Commissioner Callen was no longer on the Commission or reporting on Cable, that the category of the agenda item "Cable" could be renamed "Community Programs" and include other areas in the report.

After discussion, the Commission agreed to rename the agenda item, Community Programs.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

January 2010

Total number of documented calls: 34 Total number of callbacks: 35

Miscellaneous calls: 69 Total number of walk-ins: 19

Total number of calls received: 103

Of the documented calls:

29.4% were in regard to Housing 18% were for in home services

12% were for Legal

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point gave a presentation to the Peninsula seniors and received several calls from clients needing assistance with their mortgage payments.

Commissioner Cardella reported that Julia Rosenberg, with the California Senior Legislature, would speak on February 19, 2010 at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on issues and bills affecting seniors.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Craft stated that one should delete and not respond to phony emails.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on a UPS fraud via email.

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center reported on an AT&T phone scam.

JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported that the following dates for the joint meeting were available: July 13, 20 and the 27th. She stated that joint meetings were normally held on a Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. prior to the City Council Meeting and that the meetings usually lasted for no longer than 75 minutes.

After discussion, it was decided to schedule July 13, 2010 as the date for the joint meeting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would schedule the joint meeting with the City Council for July 13, with July 20 as an alternate date.

OLDER AMERICANS AWARDS

Responding to a question from Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated she did not know the due date for the nominations for Older Americans Award, but she stated that the City Council's Recognition of Older Americans was usually on the second Tuesday of May, which would be May 11, 2010. She also reported that normally the county's awards were in the third week of May, but that there had been no definite date announced. She further stated that two county commissions were merging and that the change could affect the Older Americans Award.

Commissioner Kraemer distributed Janet Payne's resume and nominated her for the Older Americans Award.

Former Commissioner Griffith requested that Maureen O'Donnell be considered as a nominee for the Older Americans Award.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino distributed Caroline Elam's resume and nominated her for the Older Americans Award.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Commission could select from one to six nominees for the local Torrance recognition award, but could select only one nominee at the county level, assuming the county was continuing the program this year.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that it was necessary to have permission from a person before nominating them and to obtain a resume from the nominee that would be used to write the recommendation to the City Council.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that she would ask Maureen O'Donnell if she was interested in being nominated for an Older Americans Award.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand recommended that the Commission vote for the County nominee now, in order to be ready in the event that the County announced a deadline that was prior to the next meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to nominate Janet Payne for the County Award for Older Americans, if the County elected to continue the award. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to nominate Janet Payne and Caroline Elam for the City of Torrance Award for Older Americans. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the March Commission on Aging meeting would be the deadline for any additional candidates' names for nomination for the local award.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that she would try to obtain information from the County as to whether or not they would continue to offer the award.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the City would need the addresses and phone numbers of the nominees in order to notify them of the award and that the County award required the age of the nominee.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Torrance Historical Society wanted volunteers for a project called "Names on the Wall"; to research the soldiers' names on Torrance Civic Center War Memorial at Torrance Boulevard and Madrona Avenue. She reported that John Bogert had written an article in the Daily Breeze about the project.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Torrance Historical Society was digitizing archived issues of the Torrance Herald newspaper so that the information can be made available for research.

Commissioner Craft announced that the Odd Fellows staged their annual magic show fundraiser last week. He stated that the funds raised are used to send high school juniors to the United Nations for a two week program.

Responding to a question from Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the "Beats the Odds" scholarship was usually awarded in May and that the liaison, Deborah Reed, would ask for a representative from the Commission to serve on the judging panel.

Commissioner Craft announced that PV Links, the Black Heritage Association and Sigma Delta Theta would co-sponsor an event for Black History Month, called the Living History Museum at the Peninsula Center Library on February 18.

Responding to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she did not yet have a date for the Special Olympics, but she would bring the information to the next meeting.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on the merger of the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging (LACCOA) and the American Aging Association, (AAA). She stated that AAA had not been able to accomplish much since last May, as the merger transition had been very slow and a new combined group had not yet been assembled.

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center distributed Vigor Magazine and information on classes: Mindfulness Meditation on February 17, Using Healing Touch, February 20 and Reiki Circle classes February 27.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that she would be issuing a census reminder at the City Council meeting on February 23.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reminded everyone of the luncheon to honor Commissioner Callen at the Loft Restaurant at 11:30 a.m., following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Amended March 9, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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